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Part II (Genesis 5,1-6,8) The Toledoth of Adam

Labuschagne, C.J.

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The Numerical Features of the Book of Genesis

A New Approach to its Compositional Structure

Please read the [Introduction](#) to the Project

Part II, Genesis 5,1-6,8 The Toledoth of Adam

Verses	Texts	Words	Letters	יהוה	Sum words	P/S	Compositional Structure
1	Gen 5,1	12	44		12		Heading and Prologue: God created and blessed human beings
2	Gen 5,2	11	42		23/23	S	
3	Gen 5,3	12	47		35		1st Generation: Adam
4	Gen 5,4	13	49		48		
5	Gen 5,5	12	41		60/37	S	Lifespan: 930 years
6	Gen 5,6	9+	31		69		2nd Generation: Seth
7	Gen 5,7	14+	55		83		
8	Gen 5,8	11=34(2x17)	38		94/34(2x17)	S	Lifespan: 912 years
9	Gen 5,9	7	27		101		3rd Generation: Enosh
10	Gen 5,10	15	60		116		
11	Gen 5,11	10	36		126/32	S	Lifespan: 905 years
12	Gen 5,12	7	29		133		4th Generation: Kenan
13	Gen 5,13	14	61		147		
14	Gen 5,14	10	36		157/31	S	Lifespan: 910 years
15	Gen 5,15	9+	35		166		5th Generation: Mahalalel
16	Gen 5,16	14+	59		180		
17	Gen 5,17	11=34(2x17)	44		191/34(2x17)	S	Lifespan: 895 years
18	Gen 5,18	10	37		201		6th Generation: Jared
19	Gen 5,19	12	48		213		
20	Gen 5,20	11	40		224/33	P	Lifespan: 962 years
21	Gen 5,21	8	32		232		7th Generation: Enoch
22	Gen 5,22	14	60		246		
23	Gen 5,23	10	35		256		Lifespan: 365 years
24	Gen 5,24	9	37		265/41	P	
25	Gen 5,25	10	39		275		8th Generation: Methuselah
26	Gen 5,26	15+	64		290		
27	Gen 5,27	11=26	42		301/36	P	Lifespan: 969 years
28	Gen 5,28	9	34		310		9th Generation: Lamech
29	Gen 5,29	15	60	31	325		
30	Gen 5,30	15+	57		340		Lifespan: 777 years. Total: 7625 years
31	Gen 5,31	11=26	39		351/50	S	
32	Gen 5,32	14+	39		365		10th Generation: Noah begets 3 sons
33	Gen 6,1	11+	38		376		
34	Gen 6,2	15+	54		391		Humans spread and daughters are born: Sons of gods impregnate these women. YHWH limits man's lifespan: 120 years.
35	Gen 6,3	15+	57	32	406		
36	Gen 6,4	23=78(3x26)	88		429/78(3x26)	P	Emergence of the primeval giants
37	Gen 6,5	15+	48	33	444		Epilogue: wickedness of human beings - YHWH regrets that he had made them and resolves to wipe them off the earth.
38	Gen 6,6	10+	35	34	454		
39	Gen 6,7	22+	78	35	476		Noah, however, has won God's favour.
40	Gen 6,8	5=52(2x26)	17	36	481/52(2x26)	P	
40 vss	5,1-6,8	481	1812	6x	481		

Observation 1 The Toledoth of Adam has a very regular structure, consistently indicated by the layout markers. It is concluded by the **52 (2x26)** words of the Epilogue (6,5-8) dealing with YHWH's

resolve to wipe the human race from the face of the earth because of their wickedness. Moreover, it functions as a cliffhanger anticipating The Toledoth of Noah and the Story of the Flood.

It is interesting to see that the paragraphs about Seth and Mahelalel are both highlighted by being composed of **34** (2x17) words. This highlighting, in this case by means of **26** words, also applies to part of the Methuselah paragraph (5,26-27) and part of the Lamech paragraph (5,30-31). Finally, the 10th Generation (5,32-6,4) is specifically underlined by its **78** (3x26) words.

Overview of the Regularly Structured Hebrew Text

<p>1 זֶה סֵפֶר תּוֹלְדֹת אָדָם בַּיּוֹם בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אָדָם בְּדִמוּת אֱלֹהִים עָשָׂה אֹתוֹ: 2 זָכָר וּנְקֵבָה בָּרָאם וַיְבָרֶךְ אֹתָם וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמֵם אָדָם הַבְּרָאָם: ׀ 3 וַיְהִי אָדָם שְׁלֹשִׁים וּמֵאָתָּה וַיּוֹלֶד בְּדִמוּתוֹ כְּצַלְמוֹ וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ שֵׁת: 4 וַיְהִי וַיִּמְיֹאֶדָם אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־שֵׁת שְׂמֹנֶה מֵאֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 5 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי אָדָם אֲשֶׁר־חָיָה תִשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וּשְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ׀ 6 וַיְהִי־שֵׁת חֲמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וּמֵאָתָּה שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־אֵנוֹשׁ: 7 וַיְהִי־שֵׁת אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־אֵנוֹשׁ שִׁבְעַ שָׁנִים וּשְׂמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 8 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי־שֵׁת שְׁתַּיִם עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וּתִשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ׀ 9 וַיְהִי אֵנוֹשׁ תִּשְׁעִים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־קִינָן: 10 וַיְהִי אֵנוֹשׁ אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־קִינָן חֲמֵשׁ עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה וּשְׂמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 11 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי אֵנוֹשׁ חֲמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וּתִשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ׀ 12 וַיְהִי קִינָן שִׁבְעִים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־מַחֲלָלָאֵל: 13 וַיְהִי קִינָן אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־מַחֲלָלָאֵל אַרְבָּעִים שָׁנָה וּשְׂמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 14 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי קִינָן עֶשְׂרִים שָׁנִים וּתִשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ׀ 15 וַיְהִי מַחֲלָלָאֵל חֲמֵשׁ שָׁנִים וּשְׁשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־יָרֵד: 16 וַיְהִי מַחֲלָלָאֵל אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־יָרֵד שְׁלֹשִׁים שָׁנָה וּשְׂמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 17 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי מַחֲלָלָאֵל חֲמֵשׁ וּתִשְׁעִים שָׁנָה וּשְׂמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ׀ 18 וַיְהִי־יָרֵד שְׁתַּיִם וּשְׁשִׁים שָׁנָה וּמֵאָתָּה שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־חֲנוֹךְ: 19 וַיְהִי־יָרֵד אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־חֲנוֹךְ שְׂמֹנֶה מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 20 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי־יָרֵד שְׁתַּיִם וּשְׁשִׁים שָׁנָה וּתִשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ׀ 21 וַיְהִי חֲנוֹךְ חֲמֵשׁ וּשְׁשִׁים שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־מֶתוֹשֶׁלַח: 22 וַיְהִי־חֲנוֹךְ חֲנוֹךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־מֶתוֹשֶׁלַח שְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 23 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי חֲנוֹךְ חֲמֵשׁ וּשְׁשִׁים שָׁנָה וּשְׁלֹשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה: 24 וַיְהִי־חֲנוֹךְ אֶת־הָאֱלֹהִים וַאֲיָנֹהוּ כִּי־לָקַח אֹתוֹ אֱלֹהִים: ׀ 25 וַיְהִי מֶתוֹשֶׁלַח שִׁבְעַ וּשְׂמֹנִים שָׁנָה וּמֵאָתָּה שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד אֶת־לָמֶךְ: 26 וַיְהִי מֶתוֹשֶׁלַח אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־לָמֶךְ שְׁתַּיִם וּשְׂמוֹנִים שָׁנָה וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 27 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי מֶתוֹשֶׁלַח תִּשַׁע וּשְׁשִׁים שָׁנָה וּתִשַׁע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ׀ 28 וַיְהִי־לָמֶךְ שְׁתַּיִם וּשְׂמֹנִים שָׁנָה וּמֵאָתָּה שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בֶּן: 29 וַיִּקְרָא אֶת־שְׁמוֹ נֹחַ לֵאמֹר זֶה יִנְחַמְנוּ מִכָּל־שֹׁנֵנוּ וּמֵעַצְבוֹן יָדֵינוּ מִן־תַּאֲדֻמָּה אֲשֶׁר אָרְרָה וַיְהִי: 30 וַיְהִי־לָמֶךְ אַחֲרָי הוֹלִידוֹ אֶת־נֹחַ חֲמֵשׁ וּתִשְׁעִים שָׁנָה וּחֲמֵשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיּוֹלֶד בָּנִים וּבָנוֹת: 31 וַיְהִי כָל־יְמֵי־לָמֶךְ שִׁבְעַ וּשְׁבַעִים שָׁנָה וּשְׁבַע מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיָּמָת: ׀</p>	<p>The layout of the text speaks for itself; note especially the stereotyped phrases.</p> <p>Enoch, the progenitor of the 7th generation, is a special case: his remarkable lifespan of 365 years and his death explained as 'God had taken him away'.</p> <p>Lamech: 5+10=15</p> <p>Remaining Narrative: 336</p>
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<p>32 וַיְהִי־נָח בֶּן־חָמֶשׁ מֵאוֹת שָׁנָה וַיֹּלֶד נֹחַ אֶת־שֵׁם אֶת־חָם וְאֶת־יֶפֶת׃ 6,1 וַיְהִי כִּי־הִתֵּל האָדָם לְרֹב עַל־פְּנֵי האֲדָמָה וּבָנוּת יִלְדוּ לָהֶם׃ 2 וַיֵּרְאוּ בְנֵי־הָאֱלֹהִים אֶת־בָּנוֹת האָדָם כִּי טֹבֹת הֵנָּה וַיִּקְחוּ לָהֶם נָשִׁים מִכָּל אֲשֶׁר בָּחָרוּ׃ 3 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה לֹא־יִדּוֹן רוּחִי בָאָדָם לְעַלְם בְּשָׁנָה הוּא בָשָׂר׃ וְהָיוּ יָמֵיו מָאָה וְעֶשְׂרִים שָׁנָה׃ 4 הַנִּפְלִיִּים הָיוּ בְּאַרְצָא בִּימֵי הָהֵם׃ וְגַם אַחֲרֵי־כֵן אֲשֶׁר יָבֹאוּ בְנֵי הָאֱלֹהִים אֶל־בָּנוֹת האָדָם וַיִּלְדוּ לָהֶם הַמָּוֶה הַנִּבְרָרִים אֲשֶׁר מְעוֹלָם אָנְשֵׁי הַשָּׁם׃ פ 5 וַיֵּרָא יְהוָה כִּי רַבָּה רָעַת האָדָם בָּאָרֶץ׃ וְכָל־יֹצֵר מַחֲשַׁבֶּת לִבּוֹ רָק רָע כָּל־הַיּוֹם׃ 6 וַיִּנָּחֵם יְהוָה כִּי־עָשָׂה אֶת־הָאָדָם בָּאָרֶץ וַיִּתְּעַצֵּב אֶל־לִבּוֹ׃ 7 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֲמַחֶה אֶת־הָאָדָם אֲשֶׁר־בְּרַאֲתִי מֵעַל פְּנֵי האֲדָמָה׃ מֵאָדָם עַד־בְּהֵמָה עַד־רֶמֶשׂ וְעַד־עוֹף הַשָּׁמַיִם כִּי נַחֲמַתִּי כִּי עָשִׂיתֶם׃ 8 וְנָח מִצָּא חַן בְּעֵינֵי יְהוָה׃ פ</p>	<p>Remaining Narrative:</p> <p>40</p> <p>YHWH: 2 + 13 = 15</p> <p>48</p> <p>YHWH: 2 + 20 = 22</p> <p>5</p> <p>Total Narrative: 429 (33x13)</p>
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Observation 2 From a numerical point of view, there is nothing significant about the two divine speeches, except that the first speech, in which God denies human beings (mortal flesh) eternal life by limiting their lifespan to 120 years, consists of **13** words. This may be interpreted as a deliberate choice, because **13** represents the numerical value of **אחד**, 'One', an element in the well-known YHWH-*'èchad* formula signifying YHWH's uniqueness. The use of the number **13** symbolically denotes that eternal life is YHWH's unique prerogative – compare Gen 3,22! No wonder that the total number of words in the narrative sections amount to 429, which is 33 x **13** (336+40+48+5=429).

Noteworthy is that the words devoted to Lamech's speech in 5,29 (**15**) and YHWH's two speeches in 6,3 and 7 (15+22= **37**), including the introductions, amount to **52** (2x26).

Observation 3 What is most significant about the divine speeches is that there are altogether exactly **26** in Gen 1,1-6,8, that is to say, in the Prologue [1,1-2,3], the two prediluvian Toledoth: The Toledoth of the World [Part I: 2,4-4,26] and The Toledoth of Adam [Part II: 5,1-6,8], with **78** (3x26) words in the introductions, while the speeches as such have **1521** (117x13 or 39x39) letters. The number **39** represents the numerical value of the well-known YHWH-*'échâd* formula (**26+13=39**). Here is an overview of the significant numerical features of the **26** divine speeches:

The Texts	Speeches	DSF	DS	Total words	Letters
The Prologue (1,1-2,3)	11	28	166	194	620
Part I, Sections I-II (2,4-3,24)	9	34 (2x17)	156 (6x26)	190	563
Part I, Section III (4,1-26)	4	12	66	78 (3x26)	221(13x17)
Part II (5,1-6,8)	2	4	33	37	117(9x13)
Genesis 1,1-6,8	26	78 (3x26)	421	499	1521(39x39)

Observation 4 The fact that, in terms of the divine speeches, the text is rounded off at this point is an important piece of evidence that there is a strong caesura after Gen 6,8 (indicated by a P). This means that the Story of Noah and the Flood does not begin at 6, 1 (according to the chapter division in most modern translations), or at 6,5 (as proposed by modern commentators, e.g., E.A. Speiser in *The Anchor Bible*, C. Westermann in *BKAT*, A. van Selms in *POT*, and W. Gispén in *COT*, and in some translations, e.g., the *Jerusalem Bibles* (French, English, and German versions), the Dutch *NBG* and *NBV*), but only at 6,9, which is clearly indicated by the heading of the Toledoth of Noah.

Observation 5 The Toledoth of Adam is, on the one hand, closely linked to the Toledoth of the World (Part I) by the fact that they have altogether **1462** (86x17) words, and on the other hand, intimately connected to the Toledoth of Noah and his Sons (Part III) by having altogether **187** (11x17) verses. See "The Numerical Features of the Eleven Toledoth", pp 3-4 of the [Prologue](#).